

"nostrums" largely imported from France, and also from America; England too is fairly represented. If a medical man wishes to prescribe strychnia he orders some foreign preparation of it, and even the preparations of iron are from some foreign source. Cod liver oil is of foreign manufacture, and being kept an unlimited time in the pharmacy it requires strong faith in its virtues to take it, and a stronger stomach in order to retain it.

In Oporto the British Hospital supported by English subscribers, for the relief of the crews of British ships exclusively, has a dispensary supplied with English drugs and all the appliances usually found in a chemist's shop. Here most of the prescriptions of English families are made up by the resident dispenser, and at a very moderate price. There is a very curious anomaly in the pharmacy laws of Portugal. A tariff of price is established, corresponding to the *Arznei Taxe* of Germany, and yet there does not exist the corresponding advantage which obtains on the continent of a limitation of pharmacies, and the consequence is, that whilst throughout Germany the average is one pharmacy to 10,000 inhabitants, in Lisbon and Oporto it is one to about 2,000 inhabitants.

When the necessity for a new pharmacopœia becomes apparent, the faculty of medicine of the University of Coimbra suggests its necessity to the Council of Superior Instruction in Lisbon, and this council addresses the Minister of the Interior, who orders a new pharmacopœia to be prepared, and refers it to the faculty of medicine at Coimbra. The pharmacopœia committee is composed of three medical men, one professor of chemistry, a botanist, and a pharmacist. A new edition is now in course of preparation and its issue is shortly expected.

At present pharmacy in the chief cities of Portugal is not in a satisfactory condition. In the provinces it is much worse, and we must look forward to greater facilities for a sound and systematic technical education on the part of the pupils, and to a more modern pharmacopœia, somewhat abreast of the present condition of the art of pharmacy and chemical science in more favoured countries.

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## SOLUBILITIES OF ALKALOIDS IN CRYSTALLINE AMORPHOUS AND NASCENT CONDITIONS.\*

BY ALFRED B. PRESCOTT.

The few determinations here reported were made with the desire to obtain further data as to the power of solvents when used to

\* Read at a meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and published in the *Druggists' Circular*.